

Extension Service  
U.S. Dept. of Agr.  
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EXCERPTS FROM OHIO 1948 ANNUAL REPORT

Clothing

In evaluating results

Specialists and home demonstration agents have worked together to evaluate results of the program. Objectives were listed at the planning meeting and some method of evaluation chosen. Statistics of different types and stores that interpret these figures were chosen for this evaluation.

Over a period of three years members of the Ohio Extension staff have held conferences with Dr. Gladys Gallup and Miss Mary Louise Collings on the subject of evaluation. Using material from these conferences and made plans for their use. These are mimeographed, distributed, collected and summarized in the county offices.

The following are examples of different types worked out at planning meetings.

(1) The following check sheet is to be sent to women attending the meetings.

Results of Mending Meetings

<u>Mending Tricks</u>	<u>I learned at meetings</u>	<u>I have used</u>	<u>I plan to use</u>
1 The quick overall patch	•	•	•
2 Press on Mending tape	•	•	•
3 Hemmed patch	•	•	•
4 Reweave patch	•	•	•
5 Overhand patch	•	•	•
6 Machine darning	•	•	•

How did this information help you most, check ( ) To save time \_\_\_\_  
Make better looking patches, \_\_\_\_, Make better wearing patches \_\_\_\_.  
Other results (please write in comment). \_\_\_\_

To how many people have you given information about mending? \_\_\_\_

(2) This device is to be used before and after a meeting to check on learning at the meeting.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  
(Check the correct statement)

1. SANFORIZED means:

- (1) The fabric will not shrink more than 1%
- (2) The dye is color fast to washing
- (3) The dye is color fast to sunlight
- (4) The fabric will not crush easily

2. THE LAW REQUIRES THAT:

- (1) Wool fabrics be labeled as to fiber content
- (2) All rayon fabrics be labeled
- (3) All materials made of cotton and wool be labeled
- (4) All arolac fabrics be labeled
- (5) All cotton fabrics be labeled

3. VAT DYED means:

- (1) Good quality dyeing
- (2) Is a guarantee that color will not fade

4. Nylon

- (1) Is a kind of a rayon
- (2) Is used for making hosiery only
- (3) Is a finish applied to rayon
- (4) Is a plastic

5. THE MOST RELIABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT FABRIC QUALITY IS:

- (1) A printed label
- (2) Clerk information
- (3) The way the material feels and looks
- (4) A table sign

6. WASHABLE means:

- (1) It will not fade
- (2) It will not shrink
- (3) It will not stretch
- (4) There is no guarantee of results

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(3) This device is to be used to check on satisfaction with project teaching as well as to learn if the teaching was extended to other individuals.

Evaluation of Suit or Coat

Do you like your tailored garment?    Why?     
If you make a second garment what would you do differently?     
Have you taught anyone any of the following tailoring skills?   

   Pressing

   Tailoring lapels

   Making wool buttonholes

   Putting in a zipper

   Shrinking fullness at top of sleeve

These projects are still being taught so results will need to be shown in next years report.

The following examples are given of reports obtained by agents.

Geauga County - One woman reported the following list of garments she had made since taking the tailoring course two years ago.

2 women's suits  
1 woman's coat  
3 junior girl's coats (Summer and Winter)  
2 boy's sport jackets  
1 pair of boy's trousers  
1 junior girl's jacket and skirt  
1 pair girl's slacks  
1 small boy's suit

Licking County - Two questions were sent on cards to the 28 women taking the tailoring course two years ago. 12 women returned the cards, summarized as follows:

1. How many tailored garments have you made since taking the course?

Coats 12 Suits 19 Jackets 1

2. How many have you made since last October?

Coats 9 Suits 10

## (4) METHODS USED TO EVALUATE THE SPECIALISTS ACTIVITIES

## A. Evaluation by co-workers and self is made each year.

An evaluation device prepared by a committee of extension supervisors, specialists and agents in consultation with the resident staff was checked by five different people and the specialist herself. The summary is available for use in evaluating the subject matter program and activities of the specialist. The check sheet includes the following major headings:

1. Working relationships and methods
2. Planning and executing the program
3. Evaluating results of the program
4. Personal qualifications of specialist

## B. Other methods used to measure the success of the program are:

1. Records of what farm people said and did as a result of the program are collected.

In every county undertaking a major clothing project the specialist and home demonstration agent planned and prepared devices for evaluating the work. This was done at the project planning conference. The devices were mimeographed, distributed, collected and summarized by the home demonstration agent. They were checked by the people participating in the project.

What people say about the program is also an indication of its success or failure. Such statements were recorded through the year by the home demonstration agents and leaders and were used in the evaluation also.

2. Key people note evidence of use of subject matter taught and report to specialist and home demonstration agent.

Evident changes made in clothing practices show in part the extent to which information is put to use. The fact that people are better dressed may not be the result of a single, extension project or of the work of the Extension Service at all. But when the home demonstration agent, the county agricultural agent and leaders notice that for example, more men are wearing overalls patched by a method taught by the home demonstration program, it was assumed that the subject matter taught was useful, practical and of value.

Teachers in the school have said that school children had clean sweaters more often and that their sweaters looked better after the mothers had been taught improved methods of washing them.

A merchant reported that he saw more people in his store reading the labels on clothing, after a consumer buying project in clothing. Before the project lessons were held this same merchant offered to take labels off of new garments for the home demonstration agent to use as illustrative material at her consumer buying meetings. He said, "no one reads them anyway."

3. Records of enrollment in projects and number of different people reached have been kept.

While numbers of people participating in a single activity tells little about the worth-whileness of the activity still continued attendance at all project meetings and the continued popularity of a program over many years, supported by outstanding leaders in a community is a factor in judging its success or failure.

4. Extent to which home demonstration agents make use of specialists services is significant too.

Continued receipt of letters of inquiry about technical information in clothing and textiles and continued requests for subject matter training meetings, etc., indicate to a certain extent the leadership ability of the specialists and the value of the subject matter help received at previous conferences and meetings and by letter.

#### C. Comparison of goals and results for the year.

Activity goals as set forth in the plan of work for both Adult and 4-H clothing club work have been more than reached in every case. The increase in results over the goals set a year ago may be due to increases in county staff of home demonstration agents and the fact that the goals were a little too conservative.

Numerical goals showed considerable shift of emphasis. A greater interest in consumer buying was anticipated. Less clothing construction and remodeling was expected since people had more money to spend and stores more clothes to sell than they had the previous year.

However with the price of new ready made clothes at an all time high and leading all other living costs in the upward race, many homemakers have been forced to make clothes for themselves and their families. Over 9,000 more people reported using information on construction of clothes at home than was anticipated in the State goals.

Fabrics too are expensive and that fact along with changing styles to longer skirts for girls and women may account for the increase reported in remodeling. Much more remaking of clothing was done by both 4-H club girls and adults than was expected a year ago.

Goals for consumer buying projects were set at 20,000. Only 11,000 individuals reported that they used the buying information in selecting new clothes. Efforts to restrain unnecessary buying may have influenced the number reporting this activity. The high price and relatively poor quality of new ready-made clothes may have been the cause of many making or remodeling what they had rather than buy new things.

Stocks still offer little opportunity for the buyer to make choices. If a garment is needed and there is only one of the kind available, consumers are confronted with taking it or leaving it. The absence of informative labels is still another block to wise choice making, which women in extension groups recognize. If they cannot get the information they can do little in respect to selection when it comes to "hidden values."

